

# Catholic Power

Irish American Politics



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## Introduction

The Catholic Church was fairly small and relatively insignificant in early America. This changed in the mid 1800s, when Irish immigration flowed into the United States.

Despite their poverty, the Irish established parishes and built thousands of churches across the country. Catholic priests were typically the most important members of their communities. Often, the first person a newly arrived Irish immigrant would contact was a priest, who could help him find a job and a place to live.

Catholic priests also looked after the poorest families in the community and made sure they had enough food and warm clothes to survive the winter. The nuns cared for the sick at a time when most Irish could not afford medical care.

The parish also created schools to teach children discipline and morality. Many of the teachers were nuns, often ruling their classroom as tyrants. They punished students making them kneel on marbles, eat soap, or scrape gum from the hallway stairs. These students learned the values that would shape the rest of their lives.

The transition for the Irish after they arrived in America was complex. In Ireland, most had farmed and lived in rural areas. In America though, they mined coal, dug ditches, constructed buildings, and built railroads. In 1920, ninety percent of Irish Americans lived in large cities.

Despite these changes, the importance of the Catholic Church to the Irish remained the same in both Ireland and America. It was the one institution that linked the life they remembered in Ireland to their new communities.



By the 1920s, most large cities had been divided into ethnic neighborhoods by German, Irish, Italian, and Polish immigrants. These Catholic ethnic groups formed strong communities and eventually developed political power. They joined the Democratic Party and elected their own candidates to office.

Back then, mayors and other city officials had the power to hire people for jobs with the city government.

Therefore, politicians learned to reward these positions to their friends and supporters. This relationship involved several ethnic groups and was based on mutual loyalty. The voters elected officials and expected them to help their community with jobs.

In return, the politician expected the votes to keep themselves in office. The city workers were also expected to contribute a small portion of their salaries to “the boss”.

This system, also known as “machine politics”, was attacked by critics for being corrupt. Municipal funds were misspent. Officials accepted bribes and payoffs. Incompetent people found their way onto city payrolls.

However, these politicians also helped their communities and were loyal to the people. He often found a way to help pay for the funeral of a voter whose family could not afford one. He made sure the coal was delivered to the poorest residents of the neighborhood so that they could heat their rooms. He arranged for newly arrived immigrants to get jobs on city construction projects. He pulled strings down at the courthouse so that young men were not sent to jail for fights that had hurt nobody. He would prevent a landlord from evicting a poor widow and her children from an apartment.

In return, the politician asked for votes and campaign assistance at election time. Most ethnic Catholics saw it as a fair exchange and supported these candidates.

The Irish politicians grew their ethnic Catholic coalition and took control of many large cities throughout America. Eventually, they even elected their leader to the White House.



Therefore, Jett and Jahn Media has created “Catholic Power: Irish American Politics” series to honor these brave men who showed us what is possible when we come together and stand up for what is right.

## **Index**

### **Al Smith**

New York Governor

**(Page 6-9)**

### **Father Charles Coughlin**

Catholic Fascism?

**(Page 10-13)**

### **John Fitzgerald**

Boston Mayor

**(Page 14-17)**

### **Joe Kennedy**

America's Royal Family?

**(Pages 23-24)**

### **James Michael Curley**

Massachusetts Governor

**(Page 25-28)**

## **Frank Hague**

Jersey City Mayor

**(Page 29-32)**

## **Joe McCarthy**

Wisconsin Senator

**(Page 33-39)**

## **John F. Kennedy**

United States President

**(Page 40-45)**

## **Richard J. Daley**

Chicago Mayor

**(Page 46-53)**

## **Martin P. Mullen**

Pennsylvania State Congressman

**(Page 54-58)**

# Al Smith

## Irish Catholic New York Governor



The 1926 International Eucharistic Congress was held in Chicago, Illinois. One million Catholics gathered and heard Cardinal Giovanni Bonzano declare that “the Church had come of age in the United States”.

Al Smith, the Governor of New York attended the ceremony and bent a knee to kiss the ring of Cardinal Bonzano, the papal delegate to the Eucharistic Congress.

Smith was born in 1873 on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, New York City. His mother was Irish and his father was German/Italian.

When Al was in eighth grade, he dropped out of school to support his family after his father died. He took a job at Fulton Fish Market for \$12 per week, never attending high school or college.

He began volunteering at Tammany Hall, the headquarters of the Democratic Party in New York City known for “machine politics”. In 1895, he was rewarded with a position as a clerk in the office of the Commissioner of Jurors.

He married Catherine Dunn in 1900 and they eventually had five children together.

Smith was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1905 and began to make a reputation for himself. Later in 1918, he was elected the first Irish Catholic Governor of New York and served three terms.

Smith was known for wearing flashy suits and his derby hat, smoking big cigars, and walking with a slight swagger.



In 1928, the Democratic Party nominated Smith as its presidential candidate. To the ethnic Catholic voters in large American cities, he was a hero. He inspired a tremendous turnout among Catholic voters, many who were voting for the first time. The Gallup Organization estimates that in the 1928 election, 85-90% of Catholics voted for Smith.

However, Protestants claimed Smith would “follow the Pope instead of the Constitution”. The minister of the largest Baptist congregation in Oklahoma City announced, “If you vote for Al Smith you’re voting against Christ and you’ll all be damned.”

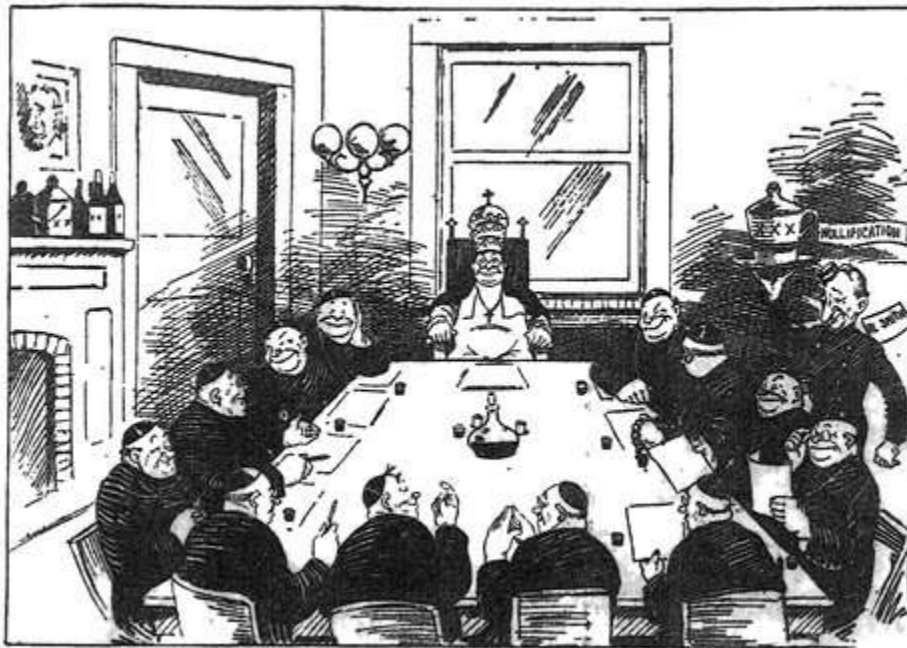
The school board of Daytona Beach, Florida sent a note home with every student. It read “We must prevent the election of Alfred E. Smith to the Presidency. If he is elected President, you will not be allowed to have or read a Bible.”

James S. Vance, the General Manager of the Fellowship Forum Newspaper claimed the 1928 election was “Protestant Americanism Versus Rum and Romanism”. America was

deciding whether to “remain a Nation of thoroughbred Americans or to be turned into a dumping ground of the scum of Europe”.

Vance also claimed a Smith victory would turn the United States into “a vassal state of the Vatican and a stink-slide of booze and corruption... our young men and women will face religious servitude and death dealing poison (alcohol).

“Some Protestants even claimed that a secret tunnel had been built from the Vatican to Washington, and the Pope would move to America if Smith won the election.



One political cartoon pictured a “Cabinet Meeting — If Al Were President,” showing pope seated at the head of the table surrounded by priests and bishops. Al Smith was dressed in a bellboy’s uniform, carrying a jug of whiskey on a serving platter.

Another cartoon included “army of bloated, liquor-sodden priests tramping into Washington behind Al Smith’s inaugural carriage.”

In the 1928 Election, Herbert Hoover defeated Al Smith 58.2% – 40.8%.

Four years later in 1932, he campaigned for the Democratic Party Nomination again but was defeated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the following elections, Smith was strongly opposed to FDR and actually supported his Republican opponents.

He gradually disappeared from the political scene but was always viewed as a Catholic hero.

In 1937, Smith met with Pope Pius XI and later said “I have always been proud of being a Catholic. I was never prouder than I was today, when I could call him Father, and he called me Son.”

Smith was appointed a Papal Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape, also known as a Gentleman of His Holiness. This is one of the highest honors the Papacy given to non clergy (priests).

However, Al Smith’s legacy was bittersweet. Many were disappointed about his defeat and wondered if a Catholic could ever be elected President of the United States.

# Father Charles Coughlin

## Catholic Fascism?



Throughout history, Catholicism has been linked with fascism. In fact, many critics claim the authoritarian structure of the Church was the basis for fascism.

In 1949, Protestant author Paul Blandshard wrote “American Freedom and Catholic Power”, which became a bestselling book. He claimed America had a “Catholic problem” and believed the Church was an “undemocratic system of alien control”.

Blandshard suggested Americans believed in democracy but Catholics preferred fascism.

Father Charles Coughlin’s broadcasts have been described by historians as “a variation of the Fascist agenda applied to American culture”.

Coughlin was born in 1891 in Hamilton, Canada. He was ordained as a priest in 1916 in Toronto.

In 1923, he moved to the Archdiocese of Detroit and began broadcasting on the radio three years later. His weekly, hour long program typically covered religious topics.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, Coughlin’s show began to cover political topics. He attacked Communism and espoused the ideas of economic populism.



Coughlin's originally supported President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal but later determined FDR was a fraud.

His radio programs preached about the negative influence of "money changers" at the Federal Reserve, who were "permitting a group of private citizens to create money" at the expense of the general welfare of the public.

Coughlin proposed economic reforms, including the nationalization of the Federal Reserve System.

By 1934, Coughlin had become the most popular Roman Catholic speaker on political and financial issues, with a radio audience that reached thirty million people every week.

He declared "I have dedicated my life to fight against the heinous rottenness of modern capitalism because it robs the laborer of this world's goods. But blow for blow I shall strike against Communism, because it robs us of the next world's happiness."

His radio talks also attacked Roosevelt, capitalists, and Jewish conspirators. Coughlin called FDR "the great betrayer and liar", and "a Jew".

Jewish author Michael Kazin believes that Coughlin "saw Wall Street and Communism as twin faces of a secular Satan". (also known as Jewry)

One of Coughlin's slogans was: "Less care for internationalism and more concern for national prosperity", which connected with the 1930s isolationist movement in the United States to stay out of World War II.

After the 1936 election, Coughlin continued to express sympathy and admiration for the fascist governments of Hitler and Mussolini. He also claimed that Jewish bankers were behind the Russian Revolution and that Russian Bolshevism was a Jewish led movement.



On November 20, 1938, two weeks after Kristallnacht, Coughlin said “Jewish persecution only followed after Christians first were persecuted.”

Later in the same broadcast, he explained that “Nazism was conceived as a political defense against Communism and was ushered into existence as a result of Communism”.

After this episode, some radio stations, including those in New York and Chicago, began refusing to air his speeches without pre-approved scripts. Later thousands of Coughlin’s followers protested the move and held signs that said “Send Jews back where they came from in leaky boats!” and “Wait until Hitler comes over here!”

Meanwhile, the FDR administration decided that Coughlin needed to be silenced. They claimed that the First Amendment did not protect broadcasting and introduced new regulations specifically created to force Coughlin off the air.

Later, the FDR administration claimed that written press was also not protected by the First Amendment and forbade him from mailing his popular newsletter to readers.

Coughlin had been effectively silenced by the “democratic” government, but his beliefs and values influenced and inspired many American Catholics.

Many Protestants believed that if Catholics became a majority, they would become a threat to political freedom because they supported media censorship of obscenity, restrictions on birth control, and rigid divorce laws. In fact, some even worried a Catholic majority would give control of the America to the Vatican.

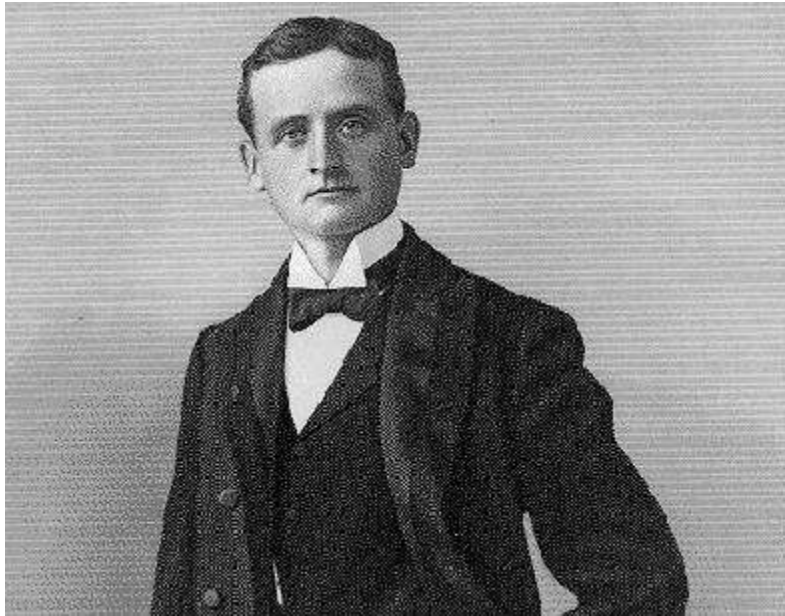
Therefore, Protestants became increasingly worried as Catholics grew in cultural and political power. They believed the Catholic Church was a barrier to national unity since their children were educated outside of the public school system. They claimed Catholics had resisted assimilation and needed to be integrated into mainstream American society.

Catholics believed in papal infallibility and claimed to be members of the one true Church. Protestants believed those ideas were authoritative, “fascist”, and certainly not democratic or American.

In 1938, American historian Lewis Mumford declared “the Church has chosen to ally itself with democracy’s chief enemy, fascism.”

# John Fitzgerald

## Irish Catholic Boston Mayor



During a 1908 rally celebrating the one hundred year anniversary of the Archdiocese of Boston, Bishop William Henry O'Connell declared:

"The Puritan has passed, the Catholic remains. The city where a century ago he came unwanted he has made his own..."

The Mayor of Boston was John Fitzgerald, the first Catholic elected to that office in the city's history.

Historian Robert Dallek described Fitzgerald as "a natural politician—a charming, impish, affable lover of people". His warm personality had earned him the nickname, "Honey Fitz".

He gained a reputation as the only politician who could sing "Sweet Adeline" sober and get away with it.

Fitzgerald was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1863 as the son of Irish immigrants. His father Thomas was from County Limerick and his mother Rosanna from County Cavan. He was the fourth of twelve children.

After being educated at the prestigious Boston Latin School and Boston College, he enrolled at Harvard Medical School for one year but left after his father died.

Later, Fitzgerald became active in the local Democratic Party and was elected to Boston's Common Council in 1891. In 1892, he became a member of the Massachusetts Senate, and in 1894, he was elected to Congress.

In 1906, Fitzgerald was elected Mayor of Boston and served three term. He was well known for his gift of communication.

Boston newspapers called his talking style "Fitzblarney" and said:

"Honey Fitz can talk you blind, on any subject you can find,  
Fish and fishing, motor boats, railroads, streetcars, getting votes."

Fitzgerald and his wife, Mary Josephine Hannon had six children.



Their oldest daughter, Rose, was born in 1890 and attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart Convent in Blumenthal, Holland. The school's mission was to make young women "very strong, very innocent and determined to do something for God in their life". She learned the importance of self-sacrifice, discipline, and suffering.

In 1914, Rose married Joe Kennedy and became the matriarch of the Kennedy Dynasty. Rose and Joe eventually had nine children together.

Unfortunately her husband was unfaithful, but her parents reminded her that Catholics don't divorce so she stayed with him. Despite her husband's affairs, she kept a calm outlook on life.

In fact, she met her husband's mistress, Gloria Swanson with such politeness that she later claimed "Rose must be a saint, a fool, or just a better actress than me."

In 1951, Pope Pius XII granted Rose the title of countess in recognition of her "exemplary motherhood and many charitable works."

Rose felt completely fulfilled as a full-time homemaker. In her 1974 autobiography, *Times to Remember*, she explained:

"I looked on child rearing not only as a work of love and a duty, but as a profession that was fully as interesting and challenging as any honorable profession in the world and one that demanded the best I could bring to it. ... What greater aspiration and challenge are there for a mother than the hope of raising a great son or daughter?"



In his later years, John Fitzgerald focused on developing the political careers of Rose's promising sons.

In fact, "Honey Fitz" helped plan the campaign strategy for his grandson John F. Kennedy's first campaign for Congress in 1946. At the victory celebration, the 83-year-old Fitzgerald danced an Irish jig, sang "Sweet Adeline," and predicted that his grandson would someday reach the White House.

Shortly after his election as president, John F. Kennedy renamed the presidential yacht the "Honey Fitz", in honor of his grandfather.

On October 2, 1950, Fitzgerald died in Boston at the age of eighty-seven. His funeral was one of the largest in the city's history.

As "Honey Fitz" was carried to his final rest from Holy Cross Cathedral to St. Joseph's Cemetery in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, a crowd of thousands gathered along the streets, singing "Sweet Adeline".

# Joe Kennedy

## America's Royal Family



The power, wealth, and glamour of the Kennedy family has contributed to their iconic status in American history. In fact, they are often referred to as “America’s Royal Family”.

The Kennedy Dynasty was largely created by Joe Kennedy, who strategically created his family’s image towards the public. He was fiercely ambitious, motivated by competition and winning.

Throughout his life, Joe was a committed Catholic and spent his life battling Jews.

In the 1996 book, “The Sins of the Father: Joseph P. Kennedy and the Dynasty He Founded”, American journalist Ronald Kessler wrote: “When Joe later went to Hollywood, he told friends he expected to wipe out the Jewish “pants pressers” who ruled Hollywood.”

He added that “Joe Kennedy’s feeling toward Jews was that the only way he could be a success was that every day when he got up, he would focus on one deal involving a Jew, and he would win the deal. That was his whole driving spirit.”

Speaking of his stay on Hollywood, Joe allegedly said “I couldn’t leave. If I left for two days, the Jews would rob me blind.”

Kessler also claimed Joe “would refer to Jews by a code word – “Canadian geese,” apparently because of a perception that Jews have long noses. John T. Galvin, who worked for Jack’s campaign, confirmed this account.”

These facts are all documented by Kessler, who is a highly respected investigative journalist and won awards from the American Political Science Association, United Press International, and the Associated Press.

Ronald Kessler, *The Sins of the Father: Joseph P. Kennedy and the Dynasty He Founded*. (New York, Warner Books, 1996).

This source can be viewed for free on Google Books.

In the 1997 book, “*The Dark Side of Camelot*”, Jewish journalist Seymour Hersch claimed that Joe told his friends:

“Individual Jews are alright... but as a race they stink. They spoil everything they touch. Look what they did to the movies.”

He added, “Kennedy and his “entourage” generally referred to Jews as “kikes or sheenies.”

Hersch also claimed that in a meeting with a German ambassador, “Kennedy mentioned that very strong anti-Semitic feelings existed in the United States and that a large portion of the population had an understanding of the German attitude toward the Jews.”

These facts are all documented by Hersch, a Pulitzer Prize winning investigative journalist.

Seymour Hersch, *The Dark Side of Camelot*. (New York, Little, Brown & Company, 1997). This excerpt can be viewed on the University of Utah website:



However, Joe was not a perfect man. Unfortunately, he was unfaithful to his beautiful wife, Rose. Sometimes, he was willing to compromise for personal gain. In 1936, Kennedy he worked with President Roosevelt to shut down Father Charles Coughlin's radio show.

At the time, the Irish were somewhat divided into two categories: the "shanty Irish" and the "lace curtain Irish".

The "shanty Irish" were authentic, working class ethnic Catholics. They were known for their drinking, outrageous gestures, do-or-die bravado, and toughness.

By contrast, the "lace curtain Irish" were the Catholic immigrants who had become wealthy and "proper" in America. Therefore, many of them had a desire to assimilate and become part of mainstream America.

As a "lace curtain Irish", Joe attended Harvard College and was determined to gain the acceptance of the Protestant ruling class. This decision led to success but also had negative effects on his family and their legacy.

Joe was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1888. He was the oldest son of P. J. Kennedy, a saloon owner and a ward boss with the Democratic Party.

In 1914, he married Rose Fitzgerald, the oldest daughter of John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald.

Their marriage joined Boston's two powerful Irish Catholic families together and created the Kennedy Dynasty. The couple eventually had nine children together.



After graduating from Harvard in 1912, Joe he took his first job as a state-employed bank examiner and learned about the banking industry.

The next year, he bought control of the Columbia Trust Bank and became the youngest bank president in America.

During World War I, he took a position as the assistant general manager of Bethlehem Steel and developed a friendship with Franklin D. Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

In 1919, Joe joined the stock brokerage firm of Hayden, Stone & Co. He made a large fortune in the stock market, with excellent timing as a buyer and a seller.

Kennedy formed alliances with several other Irish-Catholic investors, including Charles E. Mitchell, Michael J. Meehan and Bernard Smith. Sometimes he used inside information, which was legal at the time but later outlawed.

Joe knew the rampant stock speculation of the late 1920s was dangerous and left the industry before the crash. However, some critics have claimed that Joe was associated with the "bear raid" that led to the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

During the Great Depression, Kennedy increased his financial fortune by investing most of it in real estate. In 1929, Kennedy's fortune was estimated to be \$4 million. By 1935, his wealth had increased to \$180 million, equal to \$3.05 billion today.

Joe also made huge profits from reorganizing and refinancing several Hollywood studios. He merged several acquisitions into Radio-Keith-Orpheum (RKO) studios. It is estimated that Kennedy made over \$5 million (equal to \$67.7 million today) from his investments in Hollywood.

After Prohibition ended in 1933, Kennedy grew an even larger fortune when he traveled to Scotland and bought distribution rights for importing alcohol. His company, Somerset Importers, became the exclusive American agent for Gordon's Gin and Dewar's Scotch. Later, gangster Frank Costello claimed Joe was also involved in bootlegging during Prohibition.

Joe also owned Chicago's Merchandise Mart, the largest office building in the country. This also gave his family an important political relationship with the Irish Catholic leadership in Chicago.



In 1932, Joe entered into politics and supported Franklin D. Roosevelt's campaign for President. He donated, loaned, and raised a substantial amount of money for the election. Joe had hoped he would be named the Secretary of Treasury in FDR's cabinet, but was instead appointed as the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission (SEC). In 1938, FDR appointed Joe as the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom in London.

During World War II, Joe clashed with Winston Churchill and supported Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of "appeasement". Joe also argued strongly against the United States giving military and economic aid to Britain.

In fact, Joe attempted to arrange a meeting with Adolf Hitler without the approval of the Department of State. He claimed his goal was "to bring about a better understanding between the United States and Germany".

In a letter to Charles Lindbergh, Joe explained that his only concern with Kristallnacht and violence against Jews was that they generated bad publicity for the German Reich.

In another letter to Nancy Astor, Joe explained that he expected the "Jew media" in the United States to become a problem, and that "Jewish pundits in New York and Los Angeles" were trying to "set a match to the fuse of the world."

With German troops having overrun Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and France, and with bombs falling daily on Britain, Kennedy continuously declared his belief that World War II was not about saving democracy from fascism.

In the Boston Sunday Globe of November 10, 1940, Joe said:

"Democracy is finished in England. It may be here. It's all a question of what we do with the next six months. The whole reason for aiding England is to give us time ... As long as she is in there, we have time to prepare. It isn't that (Britain is) fighting for democracy. That's the bunk. She's fighting for self-preservation, just as we will if it comes to us ... I know more about the European situation than anybody else, and it's up to me to see that the country gets it."



When the Roosevelt Administration read Joe's quotes on democracy being "finished", and his belief that the Battle of Britain was not about "fighting for democracy", FDR pressured him to resign. Joe submitted his resignation in November of 1940.

Throughout the rest of the war, relations between Kennedy and the Roosevelt Administration remained tense.

However, Joe found support from other places. In 1945, he was inducted into the Vatican's Sovereign Military Order, the Knights of Malta, an organization of ten thousand powerful Catholic men throughout the world.

Although Joe had given up hope on reaching the White House himself, he turned his attention to grooming his son, John F. Kennedy for the presidency. Joe used his wealth and connections to build a national network of supporters that became the base for his sons' political careers.

However, Joe remained a controversial public figure following World War II. He mostly stayed behind the scenes and played a central role in planning strategy, fundraising, and building coalitions and alliances. Joe supervised the spending and the overall campaign strategy, helped select advertising agencies, and was on the phones with local and state party leaders, newsmen, and business leaders. He had met thousands of powerful people in his career, and used his connections to help his sons.

The Kennedy family would later become one of the most prestigious political families in America, having produced a President, three senators, and many Representatives on the federal and state levels.

In the end, John's presidency was a victory for Joe. He saw it as a step forward not just for his son but also for the Kennedy family and all Catholics.

# James Michael Curley

**Irish Catholic Massachusetts Governor**



During World War I, a British officer arrived in Boston, Massachusetts. He asked Mayor James Michael Curley for permission to sign up soldiers from people of British nationality living in the city.

The Mayor smiled and replied, "Go ahead Colonel, take every damn one of them."

Curley served four terms as Mayor of Boston and was once re-elected while he was in prison. After he was released, a crowd of thousands greeted him as he returned to the city and a brass band played "Hail to the Chief" as he returned to Boston.

After his first day back in office, Curley told reporters "I have accomplished more in one day than has been done in the five months of my absence."

James was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1874. His father Michael Curley came to America from Oughterard, Ireland at the age of 14. He settled in Roxbury, an Irish immigrant neighborhood in Boston and where he met his future wife, Sarah Clancy from County Galway, Ireland.

After his father died when he ten years old, his mother worked a job scrubbing floors in offices and churches all over Boston. Her back-breaking work and struggle instilled ethnic Catholic working values into her son.

Curley's began his career in politics with the typical duty of "machine politics", which included knocking on doors, registering voters, and taking complaints.

His friendliness combined with his political connections allowed him to use the city services to help his constituents. Curley quickly advanced through the "machine politics" system.

Later, Curley tried to help a postman in his district get a job with the federal government but was caught illegally taking a civil service exam for him.

Curley was sentenced to prison, but the incident boosted his reputation among the ethnic Catholics because he proved himself as a man willing to stick his neck out to help those in need.

Curley kept that reputation for the rest of his life and it was known all over the city that the poor and unemployed often lined up outside his house in the mornings to speak with him about getting a job or a few dollars to get them through the week.



Curley was elected Mayor of Boston in 1914 and served during the era when ethnic Catholics took over Boston. Later, much of the Boston's Protestant "Yankee" class admitted defeat and moved into the suburbs.

Curley represented the beliefs and views of his city and its people. In 1924, Curley famously claimed “the only Jews who entered politics were those who lacked the capacity to succeed in the business world”.

In 1932, Curley was denied a place in the Massachusetts delegation to the 1932 Democratic National Convention. However, he registered as a delegate from Puerto Rico under the alias of “Alcalde Jaime Curleo”. He supported FDR at the convention, but later turned against him when the president refused to appoint him as the Ambassador to Ireland.

In his 2000 book, *The Rascal King*, American journalist Jack Beatty claimed that FDR used several Irish Catholic politicians to get elected but later dropped them as if they didn’t matter. People including Curley, Al Smith, Joe Kennedy, and Father Charles Coughlin all felt deeply betrayed by FDR and the broken promises he had personally made to each of them.

In 1934, Curley was elected as the Governor of Massachusetts. From his new position, Curley mocked Harvard University, the training ground of American’s Protestant ruling class.

As Governor, Curley was obligated to attend the Harvard University graduation ceremony. In 1935, he appeared wearing silk stockings, knee britches, a powdered wig, and a three-cornered hat with flowing plume.

When Harvard University marshals objected to his costume, Curley showed them a copy of the Statutes of the Massachusetts Bay Colony which prescribed proper dress for the occasion and claimed that he was the only person at the ceremony properly dressed.



Curley also enjoyed scoffing at the Jews. In 1942, rumors had spread that Jews were dodging the draft to avoid World War II. One night Curley and his friends spent the evening “in the bar and dining rooms of the Mayflower Hotel, getting the bellhops to continually page Colonel Finkelstein, Major Cohen”, and other Jewish sounding names.

Later that year, Curley ran for Congress against Thomas H. Eliot, the grandson of Harvard University President Charles Eliot. Curley’s campaign gained support from ethnic Catholics when he attacked Eliot for being a member of the Protestant elite.

Curley famously declared, “There is more Americanism in one half of Jim Curley’s ass than in that pink body of Tom Eliot.”

Curley won the election, but critics began to claim he was corrupt. Later, several investigations were launched against Curley and his “machine” that eventually led to his downfall.

Curley’s personal life was unusually tragic. His wife, Mary Emelda Herlihy died in 1930, after a long battle with cancer. He also outlived seven of his nine children.

When Curley died in 1958, his funeral was one of the largest in Boston history. In “The Rascal King”, Jack Beatty wrote:

“James Michael Curley had suffered faith-challenging afflictions in the deaths of his first wife and seven of his nine children. And he suffered them in public, where flinching can be seen, despair witnessed. Yet in a proof of the power of faith that amounted to a kind of existential service to his constituents... he had not despaired. He died believing in a Catholic God Who had tried him sorely. That he could still believe tended to vindicate belief. The thousands filing past his casket and lining the streets for a final look at James Michael Curley were thus responding to impulses as much spiritual as political.”

# Frank Hague

Irish Catholic Jersey City Mayor



Frank Hague's critics claimed he was "New Jersey's Hitler", "Hitler on the Hudson", and "Dictator – American Style". His opponents also typically described him as a "fascist" and a "dictator".

In 1937 when they accused Hague of breaking the law, he famously declared "I am the law!"

In a speech to the Jersey City Chamber of Commerce the next year, he added:

"We hear about "constitutional rights", "free speech" and the "free press". Every time I hear those words I say to myself, "That man is a Red, that man is a Communist." You never heard a real American talk in that manner."

In fact, Hague even advocated for concentration camps for communists to be built in Alaska.

American historian Dayton David McKean described Hague as "a Ruthless, two-fisted, unscrupulous, unlettered Irishman (who) rose from the slums of Jersey City to command his city and his state."

Hague was born in 1876 in Jersey City, New Jersey. He was the fourth of eight children immigrants from County Cavan, Ireland.

His mother made sure he attended mass, but no one succeeded in getting him to school very often. In the sixth grade, he was expelled for habitual truancy.

Hague saved money and purchased a few suits. He wore them to appear successful and was known for his “impeccably clean shirts and four-buttoned, double-breasted plaid suits.”

In 1896, his flashy appearance caught the attention of “Nat” Turner, a local tavern owner. Turner asked Hague to run for a city government position in an upcoming election against the candidate of a rival tavern owner.

Hague accepted and Turner gave him \$75 for his campaign, which would be equal to \$2,000 today. Hague won his first election with over 75% of the vote.



His wide victory got the attention of the local Democratic Party and boss “Little Bob” Davis. He asked Hague to help campaign for the 1897 Mayoral election. As a reward for his service, Hague was appointed Deputy Sherriiff and became a local ward “boss”.

In 1904, Hague was approached by a woman with a son who had been accused of passing a forged check. Hague came up with an alibi and claimed he had seen her son on the day of the alleged offense.

Later, Hague was found guilty of contempt of court for ignoring a subpoena. He was fined \$100 and stripped of his duties as Deputy Sheriff.

However, the incident actually boosted his reputation among ethnic Catholics because he “had gone out of his way to help a friend – had practically given his livelihood to aid a brother.” Hague was deeply embraced by his city and its people.

He advanced through the ranks of the local Democratic Party with the support of his community.

In 1913, Hague was named public safety commissioner, giving him control over the police and fire departments. He immediately reformed the Jersey City police force by hiring tough ethnic Catholic recruits.

Hague created a group of officers known as the Zeppelin Squad or “zepps”, who were personally loyal to him alone. The “zepps” would also conduct investigations and personally reported their findings to him.

Hague had little tolerance for his opposition. In 1920, he created a city ordinance which required anyone making political speeches to obtain approval from the chief of police.

In 1930, he created another ordinance which gave himself the right to deny any permits for public meetings if he felt it was necessary to prevent “riots, disturbances or disorderly assemblage.”

Later, this ordinance was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, but Hague ignored them and continued to do it anyways.

He also led crackdowns on prostitution and drug trafficking. In fact, Hague personally busted burlesque shows, marching onto the stage and disrupting the “girlie shows” as they were in process.



Hague earned a reputation as the man who cleaned up the police force and was chosen as the new mayor in 1917. Technically, Hague's only responsibility as mayor was to appoint the school board. Otherwise, he was merely first among other city council members, with no powers over and above others.

After taking office though, he quickly took control of the Hudson County Democratic Party. He rewarded friends and supporters with city jobs. His organizational skills and loyal supporters built one of the most powerful political "machines" in the country.

During the height of his power Hague's political machine, known as "the organization," was one of the most powerful in the United States controlling politics on local, and state levels. He nominated his "puppets" as governors and called the shots after they were elected.

However, Hague was not without faults. His desk in City Hall had a specially designed lap drawer which could be pushed outward towards the person with whom he was meeting. This allowed his "guests" to discreetly deliver bribes in the form of envelopes containing large amounts of cash. He was thin skinned and short-tempered. His off-the-cuff remarks were often profane and sometimes obscene.

However, Hague was a committed ethnic Catholic who was entirely devoted to his community. In 1940, Hague made donated a \$50,000 altar to St. Aedan's Roman Catholic Church in Jersey City.

Eventually though, Hague's Republican opponents took control of the state government and began to pressure his "machine". They launched several criminal investigations which eventually destroyed his reputation.

Hague died on New Year's Day in 1956 at his Park Avenue penthouse in New York. Later, he was laid to rest at Holy Name Cemetery in Jersey City.

While hundreds gathered to see the casket depart the funeral home, only four men were seen to remove their hats for the passing of the coffin. One woman present held an American Flag and a sign that read, "God have mercy on his sinful, greedy soul".

# Joe McCarthy

## Irish Catholic Wisconsin Senator



Joe McCarthy has become one of the most hated men in American history.

His opponents successfully thwarted his efforts and destroyed his legacy. His critics have portrayed him as an obnoxious bully who exploited the threat of communism for political goals.

More recently however, historians have discovered the facts and uncovered the truth about McCarthy.

According to Jewish author Aviva Weingarten, 79 of the 124 people questioned by McCarthy's Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs in 1952 were Jews.

Gallup polls from 1951-54 show that 83% of Jews had a negative view of McCarthy.

Therefore, the Jewish media led the false attacks against McCarthy which eventually discredited his message.

In 1950, Jewish journalist Hebert Block created the term "McCarthyism". He worked for the Washington Post and sketched political cartoons like this, which mocked McCarthy.

In 1952, Jewish journalist Hank Greenspun tried to create a rumor that McCarthy was a homosexual. However, many newspapers refused to print this myth and most historians admit this rumor was entirely false.

In 1954, the creator of Mad magazine, Jewish journalist Harvey Kurtzman sketched a political cartoon titled "What's My Shine", which mocked McCarthy.

Later that year, Jewish comedian Stan Freberg recorded a political skit called "Pont of Order", which was a parody of McCarthy's hearings.

Jewish folk musician Joe Glazer also recorded "Joe McCarthy's Band", a satire song which mocked McCarthy and his followers.

Despite these attacks, McCarthy never backed down and continued his crusade against Jewish communism.



McCarthy "was a strictly observant Catholic who rarely missed mass. Friends would remember him breaking off fishing trips or speaking tours on Sunday in order to find a nearby parish for services."

He was born on a farm in Grand Chute, Wisconsin, the fifth of seven children. His mother, was from County Tipperary, Ireland and his father was Irish/Geman.

When he was 14, McCarthy dropped out of school to help his parents manage their farm. Later when he was 20, he entered Little Wolf High School, in Manawa, Wisconsin and graduated in one year.

McCarthy earned a law degree at Marquette University in 1935. He was admitted to the bar in and worked for a law firm in Shawano, Wisconsin. In 1939, he was elected as a circuit judge in 1939, becoming the youngest circuit judge in state history.

In 1942, McCarthy joined the United States Marine Corps, despite the fact that he was 33 years old and his judicial office exempted him from compulsory service. He became a second lieutenant after he completed basic training. Joe served on the Pacific front and flew twelve combat missions as a gunner-observer, earning the nickname of "Tail-Gunner Joe".

Later in 1946, McCarthy was elected as a United States Senator. During his campaign, he used the slogan "Congress needs a tail-gunner". When he first arrived in Washington, other Senators claimed he was "quick-tempered and prone to impatience, even rage".



In 1949, McCarthy exposed the abuses against German soldiers during the Malmedy Trials. Following World War II, many teenage Waffen-SS soldiers were starved and tortured into giving false confessions for "war crimes".

Later, the United States Senate decided to investigate and McCarthy took control of the investigation. He found all of the investigators in the Malmedy Trials were Jewish. He also questioned the witnesses aggressively and accused them of being dishonest.

McCarthy demanded that Lieutenant William R. Pearl, the main investigator of the Malmedy Trials, should be forced to take a lie detection test. Pearl was a Jewish immigrant, who fled to America before the war. When the other Senators refused to support his demand, McCarthy stormed out and declared the hearings were a cover-up.

McCarthy tried to denounce the investigation in Congress but was ignored by the other senators. Shortly after this, a poll of the Senate press corps voted McCarthy “the worst U.S. senator”.

The next year however, McCarthy gave a historic speech that continued his mission to expose the truth. On February 9, 1950, McCarthy gave a Lincoln Day speech to the Republican Women’s Club of Wheeling, West Virginia. During the speech, McCarthy declared:

“The State Department is infested with communists. I have here in my hand a list of 205—a list of names that were made known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping policy in the State Department.”

Many of McCarthy’s opponents were furious and hoped to use the hearings to discredit him. Senator Millard Tydings, the Democratic chairman of the subcommittee, was reported to have said, “Let me have him for three days in public hearings, and he’ll never show his face in the Senate again.” The Tydings Report claimed McCarthy was a “fraud and a hoax”, trying to “confuse and divide the American people.”



However, McCarthy continued accuse the government of dealing with Communism within its ranks. These accusations received wide publicity, which increased his popularity among Catholics and gave him a powerful national following.

During this era, Catholics were the strongest base of anti-Communism in America. McCarthy was defended by diocesan newspapers and Catholic journals. Although most Catholics were Democrats at this time, they supported McCarthy and believed he was a hero.

McCarthy also established a close relationship with Joe Kennedy and the Kennedy family. McCarthy was a frequent guest at their home in Hyannis Port and dated two of his daughters, Patricia Kennedy and Eunice Kennedy. He was also very good friends with John F. Kennedy and was named godfather to Robert F. Kennedy's first child, Kathleen Kennedy.

In 1953, McCarthy was made chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations. He used his new position to investigate Communists in the government. His methods also brought on the disapproval and opposition of many senators. They claimed he was using communism to attack his critics and political opponents.

Early in 1954, the U.S. Army accused McCarthy of illegally pressuring them. McCarthy claimed these accusations were made in retaliation for his questioning of Communists within their ranks. The Senate held six weeks of hearings to resolve the allegations, which were broadcast every night on ABC.

Although McCarthy was eventually cleared of all charges, his opponents successfully used the hearings to portray him as a reckless, dishonest bully. In a June 1 speech, Vermont Republican Senator Ralph E. Flanders even compared McCarthy to Adolf Hitler.

Months later, Flanders introduced a resolution to censure McCarthy. The resolution was initially written without any reference to particular actions or misdeeds on McCarthy's part. Flanders explained, "It was not his breaches of etiquette, or of rules or sometimes even of laws which is so disturbing, but rather his overall pattern of behavior".



On December 2, 1954, the Senate voted to “condemn” McCarthy by a vote of 67 to 22.

After his censure, McCarthy’s career was destroyed and he was largely ignored by the press. He declined both physically and emotionally. Numerous eyewitnesses, including Senate aide George Reedy and journalist Tom Wicker claim he was drunk in the Senate. It was also reported that McCarthy suffered from cirrhosis of the liver and was frequently hospitalized for alcoholism.

However, he continued to attack Communism. He warned against negotiations with “the Reds”, declaring that “you cannot offer friendship to tyrants and murderers ... without advancing the cause of tyranny and murder.” He claimed that “coexistence with Communists is neither possible nor honorable nor desirable. Our long-term objective must be the eradication of Communism from the face of the earth.”

McCarthy died on May 2, 1957, at the age of 48. He was given a state funeral attended by 70 senators, and a Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass was attended by more than 100 priests and 2,000 others at St. Matthew’s Cathedral. Thousands of people viewed the body in Washington.

Later, he was buried in St. Mary’s Parish Cemetery, Appleton, Wisconsin, where more than 30,000 filed through St. Mary’s Church to pay their last respects.

In 1999, Catholic write Joe Sorban wrote:

“History is replete with the lesson that a country in which the Jews get the upper hand is in danger. Such was the experience of Europe during Jewish-led Communist revolutions in Russia, Hungary, Romania, and Germany after World War I. Christians knew that Communism — often called “Jewish Bolshevism” — would bring awful persecution with the ultimate goal of the annihilation of Christianity.”

God bless Joe McCarthy, the man who sacrificed himself and tried to save us.

# John F. Kennedy

**Irish Catholic United States President**



On August 1st, 1945, the twenty-eight-year-old John F. Kennedy traveled through Germany and visited the Eagle's Nest, Hitler's mountain retreat in the German Alps. In his diary, Kennedy wrote:

"After visiting these places, you can easily understand how that within a few years Hitler will emerge from the hatred that surrounds him now as one of the most significant figures who ever lived. He had boundless ambition for his country which rendered him a menace to the peace of the world, but he had a mystery about him in the way that he lived and in the manner of his death that will live and grow after him. He had in him the stuff of which legends are made."

Kennedy's journal was later published and released:

John F. Kennedy, *Prelude to Leadership: The European Diary of John F. Kennedy*. (Washington DC, Regnery, 1995).

This excerpt can be viewed on the Institute For Historical Review website:

JFK's worldview was clearly influenced by his Catholic background. He recognized Hitler was a great leader and understood the true purpose of World War II.

However, many critics have claimed that Kennedy was not a true Catholic. Most notably in 1974, New York Times journalist James Reston claimed that Kennedy "didn't really believe" in his religion.

JFK's mother, Rose Kennedy replied to these attacks and claimed her son was a "deeply religious man" who "attended church regularly, was a frequent communicant at mass, and understood the meaning of prayer."

Rose added that JFK "did not hide his Catholic upbringing or downplay its importance during his campaign for election." She declared that no matter what anyone else says, her son "did believe in and practice his religion."



However, Kennedy certainly had flaws. Unfortunately, he was also unfaithful to his beautiful wife, Jacqueline. Sometimes he was willing to compromise for personal gain. As a "lace curtain Irish", he had a desire to assimilate and become part of mainstream America.

Therefore, Kennedy attended the Choate School, a highly selective, prestigious, private, boarding school located in Wallingford, Connecticut. Later, he graduated from Harvard College with a Bachelor of Science in international affairs in 1940.

In September 1941, he joined the U.S. Navy and attended the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. He also attended the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Training Center and commanded a patrol torpedo (PT) boat on the Pacific theatre.

On August 2, 1943, Kennedy's boat, the PT-109, was destroyed by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri. Kennedy gathered his wounded crew and they swam to a nearby island. Despite a significant injury to Kennedy's back, he carried a badly burned crewman through the water with a life jacket strap clenched between his teeth.

For his bravery, Kennedy received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze service stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Kennedy was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1946. In 1952, he was elected as a United States Senator and married Jacqueline the next year.



In 1960, the Democratic Party nominated Kennedy as its presidential candidate. In the election, Kennedy faced much of the same criticism Al Smith had struggled with in 1928. Protestants claimed Kennedy would “follow the Pope instead of the Constitution”.

However, Kennedy famously declared that his religion was private and that he supported the separation of church and state. In JFK’s 1960 speech to Protestant ministers in Houston, he claimed:

“I am not the Catholic candidate for president. I am the Democratic Party’s candidate for president, who happens also to be a Catholic. I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me.” On November 8th 1960, Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon, 49.7%-49.5%.

He was sworn in as the 35th President at noon on January 20, 1961, becoming the first Catholic president in the history of the United States.

Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline quickly became American celebrities. They were covered in popular magazines, featured in photo spreads, and influenced fashion trends.

The media covered them like movie stars instead of politicians, since they were younger than previous presidents and first ladies.

In 1963, Kennedy traveled through Europe and was warmly embraced. On June 26, JFK visited Germany and gave a public speech in West Berlin. He renewed the American commitment to Germany, criticized communism, and famously declared “Ich bin ein Berliner” (“I am a citizen of Berlin”).

The one million people gathered on the streets erupted in applause. After the speech JFK told advisor Ted Sorensen:

“We’ll never have another day like this one, as long as we live.”

The next day, Kennedy traveled to Ireland and was treated like a king. Kennedy accepted a grant of armorial bearings from the Chief Herald of Ireland and received honorary degrees from the National University of Ireland and Trinity College in Dublin. He also went to Dunganstown, Ireland and visited the cottage where his ancestors had lived in before coming to America.



Many historians falsely claim Kennedy supported the Civil Rights program during his Presidency. In fact, Martin Luther King Jr. actually claimed that JFK “made negroes feel like pawns in a white man’s political game”. King also criticized Kennedy for his “appeasement of the white south” and his “appointment of segregationist judges.”

In 1963, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, presented the Kennedy Administration with allegations that Martin Luther King and some of his closest friends were communists. Kennedy warned King to discontinue the suspect associations with communism. After they continued, the Kennedy administration issued a written directive authorizing the FBI to wiretap King and other leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

According to Gallup Polls, Kennedy's average approval rating throughout his presidency was 70.1%. Since then, no other president has had a higher average approval rating.

However, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas at 12:30 pm on November 22, 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was accused of the shooting, but claimed he had been set up. Two days later, Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby (a Jewish mobster, born as Jacob Rubenstein).

In his 1994 Autobiography, "My Life As a Radical Lawyer", Jewish attorney William Kuntsler remembers a conversation he had with Ruby after the shooting:

"When Jack told me he had killed Oswald "for the Jews," I believed him. On each of the three occasions we talked, he said, "Bill, I did this so they wouldn't implicate the Jews."

This excerpt can be viewed for free on Google books.



Unfortunately, the Jews were never implicated. The FBI and the Warren Commission officially concluded that Oswald was the lone assassin. However, the United States House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) concluded that those investigations were flawed and that Kennedy was probably assassinated as the result of a conspiracy.

A 2004 Fox News poll found that 66% of Americans thought there had been a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy and 74% thought the investigation was a cover-up.

Nevertheless, Kennedy's death was a tragedy that devastated American Catholics.

Irish Catholic politician Daniel Patrick Moynihan explained:

"I don't think there's any point in being Irish if you don't know that the world is going to break your heart eventually. I guess that we thought we had a little more time.

A Requiem Mass was held for Kennedy at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle on November 25, 1963. The honor guard at John Kennedy's graveside was the 37th Cadet Class of the Irish Army. His body was buried at Arlington National Cemetery and his grave is lit with an "Eternal Flame".

In the end, the Kennedy's power, wealth, and glamour came with a tremendous cost. "America's Royal Family" was ultimately destroyed by their ambition to assimilate and become part of mainstream America.

Their success quickly transformed into the tragedy widely known as the "Kennedy curse".

The Catholic political movement had reached its peak and would never be as powerful again.

## Richard J. Daley

### Irish Catholic Chicago Mayor



During the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, Jewish Senator Abraham Ribicoff stood at the podium and declared:

“With George McGovern, we wouldn’t have Gestapo tactics on the streets of Chicago!”

These “Gestapo tactics” were the Chicago police beating a group of protestors led by Jewish revolutionary Abbie Hoffman. Ribicoff’s words were directed toward Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, the leader of the Democratic Party.

Daley stood and yelled back:

“Fuck you, you Jew son of a bitch, you lousy motherfucker, go home!”

Daley was the last of the Irish Catholic mayors known as the “big city bosses”. He built a political “machine” of Catholic followers that dominated Chicago.

Daley was tough, strong, disciplined, and too stubborn to be pushed around by anyone. He was born in Chicago’s Irish community in Bridgeport and a devoted member of the Nativity of Our Lord parish.

Bridgeport was a working-class Irish-Catholic neighborhood in a city run by wealthy Protestants. Although some of his wealthy neighbors relocated to the suburbs into more

“prestigious” neighborhoods, Daley never moved out of his neighborhood and spent his lifetime defending it.

In “American Pharaoh”, Jewish author Adam Cohen wrote that “despite all sense and logic, Daley’s family, and later Daley himself, remained intensely loyal to their small Irish-Catholic village.”

Later in life, after he had taken control of Chicago, Daley spoke at an Irish dinner in the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Daley said, “I can’t help thinking of your mothers and fathers and grandparents who would never have been allowed in this hotel.” The lace-curtain Irish crowd laughed, but Daley did not. He replied, “I want to offer a prayer for those departed souls who could never get into the Conrad Hilton.”

Daley attended Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School and earned decent grades, but was not particularly gifted. His teacher, Sister Gabriel later claimed he was “a very serious boy, a very studious boy. He played when he played. He worked when he worked. And he prayed when he prayed.” One classmate remembered him as “a hard worker . . . maybe a little above average.”



In 1916, Daley continued his Catholic education in High School at the De La Salle Institute. He later claimed this was the place that taught him “to wear a clean shirt and tie and put a shine on your shoes and be confident to face the world.”

As mayor, Daley often made national top ten-best-dressed lists. He rarely appeared in public in anything less formal than a suit, and almost never removed the jacket.

Daley worked after school and on the weekends. He spent much of his limited free time at the Hamburg Athletic Club, where he joined a youth gang that defended his neighborhood from the blacks. His gang participated in the Chicago Race Riots of 1919, while “white gangs roamed the South Side, attacking blacks indiscriminately, and whites drove through the Black Belt shooting at blacks out of car windows.

“In all, 23 blacks and 15 whites were killed during the riots. Another 537 were injured, two-thirds of them black. In “American Pharaoh”, Cohen writes: “The seventeen-year-old Daley was, at the very least, extremely close to the violence. Bridgeport was a major center of riot activity: by one estimate, 41 percent of all the encounters occurred in and around Daley’s neighborhood. South Side youth gangs, including the Hamburg Athletic Club, were later found to have been among the primary instigators of the racial violence.” Whites from the ethnic neighborhoods believed that Daley was a “youthful defender of the South Side color line”.

Many later claimed that Daley was involved in the riots and “pictured him in the pose of a brick-throwing thug.”



After graduating from the De La Salle Institute in 1919, Daley took a job with Dolan, Ludeman, and Company, a stockyards commission house. He woke up at 4:00 a.m. each day to walk from his parents’ house to the yards, and moved cattle off trucks to weigh them.

In 1923, Daley began taking pre law classes four nights a week at DePaul University. Getting his law degree while working took Daley more than ten years. A classmate later recalled that “Daley was a nice fellow, very quiet, a hard worker, and always neatly dressed. He never missed a class and always got there on time. But there was nothing about him that would make him stand out, as far as becoming something special in life.”

However, Daley succeeded in law school with “the same plodding persistence he brought to every task he undertook”. A friend later remembered “I always went out dancing every night, but Dick went home to study his law books. He would never stop in the saloon and have a drink.”

While Daley was working through night law school, he also met Eleanor Guilfoyle. She came from a large Irish-Catholic family on the Southside of Chicago. Daley “pursued marriage as he pursued everything else in his life — carefully, even ploddingly.” Their courtship lasted for six years and the couple married in 1936. They eventually had seven children together.

Daley’s political career began with the typical duty of “machine politics”, which included knocking on doors, registering voters, and taking complaints. In 1936, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. Two years later, he was elected to the Illinois State Senate.

After developing a positive reputation in state government, Daley returned to Chicago in 1950 to be closer to his family. He was elected as Cook County Clerk and quickly took control of the political “machine”. Eventually, Daley was elected Mayor of Chicago in 1955.

As Mayor, Daley “appointed no blacks to any positions of consequence”. Jews “were also largely excluded from the upper ranks of the Daley administration”. Frank Sullivan, the mayor’s press secretary later claimed that Daley “was not comfortable with blacks and Jews.”

Every day, Daley “woke early and attended morning Mass at Nativity of Our Lord Church”. The Daley home “was decorated with a large picture of Christ on a living room wall and a statuette of the Virgin and Child on the dining room sideboard”.

Daley was re-elected six times and served as Mayor for 21 years. He ruled the city with an iron fist and his “political machine” dominated local and state politics. He protected Chicago from the economic struggles that “rust belt” cities like Buffalo, Cleveland, and Detroit were experiencing during the same period.

As Mayor, Daley oversaw the construction of the O’Hare International Airport (world’s largest airport), the Sears Tower (world’s largest building), McCormick Place, the University of Illinois at Chicago campus, and many other significant projects.



In addition, Chicago also built the largest public housing development in the country to segregate the blacks from the ethnic Catholic neighborhoods. The Robert Taylor Homes were 28 high-rise buildings with 16 stories each, with a total of 4,415 units, stretching for two miles. About 96 percent of the residents were black.

The Robert Taylor Homes were filled with narcotics, violence, and poverty. 95 percent of the residents were unemployed and listed welfare as their only income source. 40 percent of the households were single-parent, female-headed households earning less than \$5,000 per year. The buildings were only designed to hold 11,000 residents, but totals eventually reached 27,000.

In 1962, Chicago also built the Dan Ryan Expressway, a fourteen lane highway that separated the Robert Taylor homes from the ethnic Catholic neighborhoods. Mayor Daley constructed many other barriers to defend his city from these black ghettos.

In 1966, Martin Luther King Jr. came to Chicago to promote “racial integration” and destroy Chicago’s ethnic Catholic neighborhoods. MLK’s protests were met with fierce opposition and he later claimed “the people of Mississippi ought to come to Chicago to learn how to hate.”

Eventually, Mayor Daley defeated the protestors. He signed a vague agreement to “integrate” Chicago that he never had any intention of following.

Two years later, MLK was killed and riots broke out across the country. Mayor Daley allegedly ordered the police should “shoot to kill any arsonist or anyone with a Molotov cocktail in his hand”. He also declared police should “shoot to maim or cripple anyone looting.”

The controversial statement was criticized throughout America but praised in Chicago. Daley’s supporters flooded his office with grateful letters for protecting their city. Later, Time Magazine determined Chicago was “one of the cities least affected by the riots”.

However, “Civil Rights” leader Jesse Jackson was outraged and claimed Daley’s orders were “a fascist’s response.”

Later in 1968, the Democratic National Convention was held in Chicago. The convention quickly turned into a tense power struggle for control of the Democratic Party. Mayor Daley and the ethnic Catholics were challenged by liberal Protestants, blacks, and Jews.



Meanwhile, Jewish protestors led by Abbie Hoffman gathered outside of the convention and were beaten by Chicago police officers. The national media was outraged, but Daley received strong local support. Within Chicago, people displayed bumper stickers that said "We Support Mayor Daley and His Chicago Police". 80-85 percent of Chicago residents supported the attack on the protestors.

Four years later, Daley and his Illinois delegates were blocked from attending the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami, Florida. Democratic Senator George McGovern introduced new rules that required a percentage of delegates to be women and minorities.

Daley and his Illinois delegates were rejected because they did not have enough "diversity".

Instead, McGovern accepted a group of Illinois delegates led by Jesse Jackson, filled with blacks and women Jackson had selected (Although Jackson was not even an elected official and had no legal authority to attend the convention or choose delegates).



Therefore, 1972 was the year that Catholics were illegally forced out of the Democratic Party. Although some stayed, they were controlled by radical liberals.

McGovern's new rules requiring a percentage of delegates to be women or minorities also changed the topics discussed at the convention. Issues previously ignored like abortion and gay rights were suddenly up for debate.

McGovern later acknowledged the consequences of these new rules when he admitted "I opened the doors of the Democratic Party and 20 million people walked out." In the 1972 Presidential election, Richard Nixon defeated McGovern 60.7%-37.5% in one of the worst defeats of all time.

Among Catholics, Nixon defeated McGovern 52%-48%. This was significant because the 1972 election was the first time that a majority of Catholics voted for a Republican candidate.

Four years later in 1976, Daley suffered a massive heart attack and died in the hospital. When his wife heard, she looked at her children and calmly said "Now, we all have to kneel down and thank God for having this great man for forty years." She took out her rosary and led the family in prayer.

During the funeral at Nativity of Our Lord Church, Father Gilbert Graham told how Daley "had gone to church almost every day of his life, including the day he died". He also told how the mayor claimed he never needed sleeping medication because "he always had his rosary, which calmed and prepared him for rest, no matter what the problems of the day."

When Daley died, Father Graham said, his wallet contained pictures of his family and "a dozen well-worn prayer cards which he used every day."

Father Graham said it best:

"May God rest this beautiful man's soul..."

## Martin P. Mullen

**Irish Catholic Pennsylvania State Congressman**



In 1971, Pennsylvania lawmakers introduced a bill that would have allowed no-fault divorce.

Pennsylvania State Representative Martin P. Mullen stood up against the bill and defended the family. During debate, he declared:

“We are just trying to protect motherhood and womanhood. A woman is born clean and decent. If she is bad, it is because a man made her go wrong.”

Later, he further explained: “This is only the beginning, abortion is next.” Mullen understood the importance of Catholic morality and recognized the consequences of sin. He strongly opposed abortion, adultery, pornography, and fornication.

He was born in Philadelphia’s Irish community in Elmwood Park and a devoted member of the Most Blessed Sacrament parish. There were eight masses every weekend, each filled with twelve thousand Catholics. It was the largest parish in the world at the time.

Mullen’s parents were Irish immigrants and committed Catholics. His father was a fireman and died when Martin was three. His mother took a job as a maid to support the family.

He attended Most Blessed Sacrament School, the largest Catholic grade school in the country with over 3,500 students. A former student recalled: "This school was my life and so was my neighborhood. We lived and breathed family, church and friends."



Mullen was a parish politician and built a Catholic coalition that dominated state politics for twenty years. He consistently had the heaviest booking schedule of speaking engagements, banquets, and meetings of any politician of his time.

He later explained: "People fail to realize that why I was successful was that I had a power base around the state. I didn't win battles here in Harrisburg. I won them back in the districts. We organized our groups at the local level, with the objective of delivering the votes in Harrisburg."

He served fifteen terms in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives and described himself as "carrying the banner of God".

He introduced laws against abortion, adultery, divorce, pornography, and immorality.

Many of his laws passed but were later vetoed by the Governor or declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In December of 1965, Mullen protested government funding of birth control and refused to release the state budget. He was chairman of the House Appropriations

Committee which controlled spending. His opponents attacked him and claimed he was violating the will of the people.

However, Catholics understood the consequences of birth control and recognized the threat. In 1959, Philadelphia Cardinal John Francis O'Hara claimed "Birth control programs were aimed largely at two groups with the highest birth rates – Catholics and Negroes." In August of the next year, Mullen finally won his battle and birth control funding was removed from the state budget.

In 1971, Mullen introduced a bill to outlaw all abortions in the state of Pennsylvania. He declared: "This bill prohibits abortion 100% under any circumstances... This bill would make all abortions for any reasons unlawful."

Mullen's bill was passed with an 80% majority, but Jewish Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp vetoed the abortion ban.

Then, Mullen threatened to run against Shapp in the next election. He explained:

"Don't get me wrong, I don't want to be governor, but if Mr. Shapp kills the bill and the Legislature doesn't come with two-thirds majority to overturn him, I'll have to take my case to the people. This is my life. I want the damned bill to become law. Why? Because I don't want to see more innocent babies getting killed."



In 1974, Mullen announced he was running for Governor of Pennsylvania and based his entire candidacy on "the whole morality question".

However, the media began a vicious smear campaign against him. Mullen was ridiculed for the clothes he wore, the simple home he lived in, and his traditional values. They referred to him as "Pope Martin" and "Monsignor Mullen".

He eventually lost in the Democratic primary and Shapp remained the Governor of Pennsylvania. Later that year, the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Jewish State Congressman Herb Fineman removed Mullen as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The next year in 1975, Mullen fought back and attempted to overthrow Fineman as Speaker of the House. He recieved 80 Republican votes to go along with 13 Democratic votes, almost defeating Fineman, 93-109.

In 1977, Mullen passed more laws restricting abortion. They were vetoed again by Governor Shapp, but this time was overridden by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. However, the U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled these laws were unconstitutional. Mullen also passed three bills to aid Catholic schools and two laws to restrict pornography, which were later declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.



Meanwhile, Mullen's home neighborhood was being destroyed by gang violence. When some of the Irish began to relocate into more "prestigious" neighborhoods, Mullen bought their houses prevent blacks from moving in. Eventually, Mullen owned eighty houses and rented them to ethnic Catholics at discounted rates.

However in 1980, Mullen's district was redrawn by Democrats who wanted to force him out of office. His new district included areas with more minorities and less of his supporters.

In the next election, the Democrats ran a straight-up racial campaign against him and he was defeated by a black candidate.

Gradually, the Most Blessed Sacrament parish was destroyed and Elmwood Park became a black ghetto. The former members, 100,000 Irish Catholics had been scattered into the suburbs. They gradually lost their culture and became “white” Americans.

However, they still gathered occasionally and remembered what had been lost.

In “Slaughter of Cities”, Catholic author E. Michael Jones recalls an occasion when the group met at West Philly night on the beach of Sea Isle, New Jersey. They yelled:

“Where are we from?”

The crowd chanted “MBS (Most Blessed Sacrament).”

“Why did we leave?”

“Because of the niggers,” it answers.”

The ethnic Catholic neighborhoods across the country had been destroyed.

Therefore, the Catholic politicians that represented them and stood up for their values were also eliminated.

# Conclusion

## Modern Catholics & Politics



“The ‘60s in America, in spite of whatever they would come to symbolize later, were the decade during which the Irish Catholics finally came into their own in American politics. Their day in the sun would be short and violent and come to a bloody end almost before it had time to begin. By the end of the decade virtually all of the liberal Irish Catholic politicians who had begun the decade as synonymous with optimism would be dead or swept from office.”

E Michael Jones – From “Slaughter of Cities”

In 1968, the blue collar ethnic Catholics rallied behind Robert F. Kennedy for the Democratic Presidential nomination. His campaign was running strong and many believed he would eventually reach the White House.

However, RFK was assassinated later that year and a power struggle occurred within the Democratic Party.

During the 1968 Democratic National Convention, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley and other Catholic Democrats were challenged by liberal Protestants, blacks, and Jews.

These attacks were largely led by South Dakota Senator George McGovern and his supporters. McGovern’s top advisor Fred Dutton later claimed Catholics “constitute an

important bastion of opposition. They have tended, in fact, to become a major redoubt of traditional Americanism and of the antinegro, antiyouth vote.”

Therefore, McGovern’s goal was to eliminate Catholics and transform the structure of the Democratic Party.

Since the New Deal in 1932, the Democratic Party had been an alliance formed around a broad working-class agenda. This coalition included ethnic Catholics, working class Southerners, and blacks.

However, McGovern’s supporters were typically young hippies, college-educated suburbanites, and feminists.



Before the 1972 Democratic National Convention, McGovern’s supporters introduced new rules that required a percentage of delegates to be women and minorities.

Later, Mayor Daley and his Illinois delegates were blocked from attending the convention. They were rejected because they did not have enough “diversity”.

Instead, McGovern accepted a group of Illinois delegates led by Jesse Jackson, filled with blacks and women Jackson had selected (Although Jackson was not even an elected official and had no legal authority to attend the convention or choose delegates).

McGovern's new rules requiring a percentage of delegates to be women or minorities also changed the topics discussed at the convention. Issues previously ignored like abortion and gay rights were suddenly up for debate.

McGovern later acknowledged the consequences of these new rules when he admitted "I opened the doors of the Democratic Party and 20 million people walked out."

In the 1972 Presidential election, Richard Nixon defeated McGovern 60.7%-37.5%. Among Catholics, Nixon defeated McGovern 52%-48%. This was significant because the 1972 election was the first time a majority of Catholics had ever voted for a Republican candidate.

During this era, many Catholics had been scattered into the suburbs after their ethnic neighborhoods were destroyed by gang violence. In the suburbs, they gradually lost their culture became "white" Americans.



During this process, some of them joined the Republican Party. They were rightfully disgusted by the legalization of abortion and the multicultural views promoted by the Democratic Party.

However, becoming a Republican also meant compromising some of their Catholic values. They were forced to support the endless wars and unjust economic views promoted by the Republican Party.

Catholics are still considered a valuable swing group during Presidential elections. Since 1972, every President to win an election has received a majority of Catholic votes.

Unfortunately though, none of these Presidents have truly promoted Catholic values. Most recently, George W. Bush was more interested in fighting wars in the Middle East and Barack Obama supports abortion and multiculturalism here in America.

Catholic liberals and conservatives have been divided by the American party system and sacrificed their beliefs and values for political success. Examples include Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, Kathleen Sebelius, Christine O'Donnell, John Boehner, and Paul Ryan.

Meanwhile, Catholics Republicans like Patrick Buchanan are excluded from their party because they oppose fighting wars for Israel. Catholic Democrats like Bob Casey are excluded from their party because they are pro-life.

The only way we can fix these problems is if we support true Catholic politicians. If we remember who we are and where we came from. If we forget these pointless partisan debates and come back to the true teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.



Jett & Jahn Media created the “Catholic Power: Irish American Politics” series to examine what is possible when we come together.

All of the sources we used were from well documented academic books and articles.

(If you doubt any claim we make, we welcome you to look it up for yourself)